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IN INSULAR POSSESSIONS.

HAWAII.

Plague-infected Rat Found.

A plague-infected rat was found at Okaka, Waipio, December 28, 1912. This is the first record of rodent plague in Waipio, which is situated in a valley northwest from Kukuihaele. A case of human plague occurred at Kukuihaele December 16, 1912.

Plague Conditions.

Passed Asst. Surg. Trotter, chief quarantine officer for Hawaii, reported December 28, 1912:

Plague first appeared in Hilo in 1900 and spread along the coast line to the southeast and to the northwest from Hilo, but the principal advance of the disease has been in the last-named direction and so far as known has not extended beyond Kukuihaele.

The land on this side of the island between the mountains and the sea is devoted altogether to the raising of sugar cane. It is very uneven in contour and has a great number of deep gullies with precipitous sides, which carry the rain water from the mountains to the sea. The shore line is very high and rises abruptly from the sea, and as the water is always rough, practically all the loading and discharging of cargo and passengers is done by an overhead cable leading from a landing platform on the cliff above to the vessel at anchor to buoys below.

Hilo is the only port on the windward side of Hawaii which receives freight direct from the mainland, and all the freight for the landings and small villages along the coast comes either from Honolulu or Hilo. The freight shipped from the plantations consists principally of sugar, machinery to be repaired, empty gasoline drums, and other odds and ends, and it is considered unlikely that any rats could be carried in freight from Kukuihaele to Hilo or Honolulu.

The freight being landed along this coast consists of lumber, jute bags in bales, general merchandise, and machinery, with some forage, as bran and barley, in sacks. There is very little if any baled hay imported. The hay, bran, and forage come from San Francisco, and are usually transhipped from the San Francisco steamer at Hilo direct to the interisland vessels.

Plague, both human and rodent, has been present in Kukuihaele and the adjoining village of Honokaa for over a year, and it is believed that the infection in the recent cases was due to an acute recrudescence of an old infection and that it was not imported.

Since the three fatal cases on December 16, 1912, infected rats have been found in the yard at Kukuihaele where the case of pneumonic plague occurred, and in addition one plague rat was found in stables on Honokaa plantation.

The board of health is doing everything in its power. The village of Kukuihaele has been cleaned from end to end and the houses wherein the fatal cases occurred have been thoroughly fumigated, and additional rat catchers employed for the district. It is believed that the villages and plantation camps can be kept in a practically rat-free condition, but as the cane fields and surrounding country, particularly the gullies mentioned above, abound in rodents, principally *Mus rattus*, the work of eradicating the infection promises to be long drawn out and expensive.

The entire windward side of the island is practically monopolized by the sugar industry. There are a few owners of homesteads, but they can not make their land pay and they are forced to work on the plantations, so that the necessary funds for waging a successful campaign must come, to a large extent, from the plantations and whatever appropriation the board of health may be able to obtain from the legislature.

As the interisland steamers transship their cargoes of sugar at Hilo and Honolulu direct into vessels bound for mainland ports, I have directed that such of these steamers as touch at ports on the north side of Hawaii be fumigated every 30 days. This measure will keep them free of rats and prevent any possibility of infection being conveyed from the infected district.

Examination of Rodents for Plague Infection.

During the week ended December 28, 1912, 137 rats were examined at Honolulu for plague infection. No plague-infected rat was found.

During the week ended December 21, 1912, 1,843 rats and mongoose were examined at Honokaa. Two plague-infected rats were found. During the same period 992 rats and mongoose were examined at Hilo. None were found to be plague infected.

The last case of human plague occurred at Kukuihaele, Hawaii, December 16, 1912. The last plague-infected rat was found at Okaka, Waipio, December 28, 1912.

PORTO RICO.**Rat-Proofing.**

Passed Asst. Surg. Creel, at San Juan, reported January 8:

Rat-proofing has practically been completed in San Juan and suburbs, rat trapping and poisoning being maintained there on the same scale as formerly. The last plague-infected rat at San Juan was found September 11, 1912, and the last human case of plague on September 13, 1912.

At Mayaguez rat-proofing has also been practically completed, a force of six trappers and one foreman being retained at that point for continued trapping of rodents. All rodents found at Mayaguez are sent to the San Juan laboratory for examination. No plague-infected rat has been taken from that point.

At Ponce the greater part of the rat-proofing has been completed, two inspectors being retained there to finish the work. Six trappers and a foreman are continued at Ponce, as at Mayaguez. No plague-infected rat has been found at Ponce.

The force of employees now at work at Arecibo consists of 10 rat trappers, 2 foreman, and 2 inspectors. A service laboratory is about to be established at Arecibo at which rodents from Arecibo, Aguadilla, Manati, and Mayaguez will be examined. Rat-proofing work has been carried on at Arecibo and Caguas by employees of the insular department of sanitation. The force at Caguas now consists of 3 inspectors, 3 foremen, and 12 trappers.

At Arecibo the last plague-infected rat was found November 1, 1912, and at Caguas December 21, 1912.

Plague Situation.

Passed Asst. Surg. Creel reports:

RATS EXAMINED JAN. 4 TO 11, 1913.

Places.	Rats exam- ined.	Rats. found infected.
All Porto Rico.....	1,294
San Juan municipality:		
San Juan.....	82
Puerta de Tierra.....	14
Santurce.....	94

The last case of plague in man occurred in San Juan September 12, 1912; the last plague-infected rat was found at Caguas December 19, 1912.